

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204315
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANZ:FCBENNETT, JR.:SJN
APPROVED BY EA - MR. OAKLEY
EA - RHOLBROOKE (DRAFT)
EA/P - MR. GEBER (DRAFT)
EA/PRCM - DANDERSON(DFT
EA/VLC - MR. LYNE (DRAFT)
S/S-OTGMARTIN

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R 120003Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

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EXDIS CINCPAC FOR POLAD MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

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SUBJECT: CALL ON A/S HOLBROOKE BY AUSTRALIAN AMB RENOUF,
AUG 8, 1978

REF: (A) STATE 202046; (B) STATE 198329

1. SUMMARY. AMB RENOUF CALLED ON A/S HOLBROOKE AUG 8.
TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS, US-SRV
RELATIONS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AND THE NEW ZEALAND PROPOSAL
FOR AN ANZUS OFFICIALS MEETING. END SUMMARY.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 204315

2. AUSTRALIAN AMB ALAN RENOUF CALLED ON EA ASST SECY
RICHARD HOLBROOKE AUG 8 PRIOR TO RENOUF'S RETURN TO
CANBERRA ON CONSULTATIONS AND LEAVE. THEIR CONVERSATION
COVERED THE TOPICS DISCUSSED BELOW, BUT RENOUF'S PRINCIPAL
AIM WAS TO OBTAIN A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF THE US-ASEAN
CONSULTATIONS OF AUG 3 AND 4 TO TAKE BACK TO CANBERRA WITH
HIM.

2. US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS - HOLBROOKE NOTED THAT THE CONSULTATIONS HAD BEEN A REAL SUCCESS, FAR MORE SO THAN EITHER WE OR THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS HAD ANTICIPATED. THE HIGH POINT OF THE CONFERENCE WAS SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENT ON THE COMMON FUND (REF B) WHICH WENT A LONG WAY

TOWARD MEETING ASEAN CRITICISM OF US FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMATE DESIRES OF MODERATE DCS. IN THIS REGARD, WE WILL BE FACTORING OUR POSITION INTO G-77 CONSIDERATIONS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. INDONESIAN MINISTER WIDJOJO HAD OBSERVED THAT OUR INPUT SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER G-77/OECD MEETING WHICH WOULD LEAD THROUGH THE ASIA GROUP OF THE G-77'S MEETING IN SRI LANKA IN FEBRUARY AND THE G-77 MEETING IN TANZANIA IN MARCH, TO THE UNCTAD MEETING IN MANILA IN MAY 1979.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF THE MEETINGS, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, WAS THE STRONGLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION MADE ON PARTICIPANTS BY THE HIGH LEVEL OF USG INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR ASEAN. THIS WAS DUE IN GREAT PART TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT, WHO SPENT A HALF HOUR WITH THE MINISTERS, THE VICE PRESIDENT, WHO WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT THEIR DINNER, AND THE TIME DEVOTED BY SECRETARIES VANCE AND BLUMINGTHAL AND FIVE OTHER CABINET MEMBERS. DURING THE MEETING THE 14 ASEAN MINISTERS MADE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 204315

CLEAR THEIR UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR A CONTINUED US PRESENCE IN THE REGION. THEY LEFT WASHINGTON MORE CONFIDENT BOTH OF OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT BALANCE THERE AND OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THEMSELVES POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. THIS SHOULD GO FAR, HOLBROOKE POINTED OUT TO AMB RENOUF, TOWARD RESOLVING PRIME MINISTER FRASER'S EARLIER FEELING OF THE NEED FOR STRONGER EXPRESSIONS OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA.

4. US-SRV RELATIONS - HOLBROOKE ASKED RENOUF TO THANK FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK FOR THE DETAILED REPORTS AND LETTERS DESCRIBING PHAN HIEN'S VISIT TO CANBERRA THAT HAD BEEN SENT TO HIM. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HOLBROOKE STATED THAT THE US POSITION TOWARD THE SRV REMAINS UNCHANGED, POINTING OUT THAT WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED DIRECTLY FROM THE SRV AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THAT GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO DROP EARLIER DEMANDS FOR AID. VERY CONFIDENTIALLY, WE EXPECT TO MEET WITH SRV REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION THIS FALL AT WHICH TIME THE BIDDING CAN BE REVIEWED. WE ARE NOT IN ANY GREAT RUSH AND THE MEETINGS HAVE NOT

YET BEEN ARRANGED. HOLBROOKE ALSO DESCRIBED THE STRONG MISTRUST OF THE SRV, AND PARTICULARLY OF THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE USSR IN INDOCHINA WHICH WAS EXPRESSED BY THE ASEAN MINISTERS, NOTING THAT NONE OF THE FIVE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES FAVOR SRV ENTRY INTO ASEAN AT THIS TIME.

5. PHILIPPINE BASES - IN REPLY TO AMB RENOUF'S QUESTIONS ABOUT PHILIPPINE BASES AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, HOLBROOKE SAID THAT WE HAVE MADE IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN RECENT WEEKS. ALL ISSUES WITH REGARD TO CLARK AFB HAVE BEEN SETTLED AND ONLY A FEW REMAIN TO BE CLEARED UP WITH REGARD TO SUBIC.

6. PNG-INDONESIA - HOLBROOKE TOLD AMB RENOUF THAT WE
SECRET

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PAGE 04 STATE 204315

ARE WATCHING THE PNG-WEST IRIAN SITUATION CLOSELY AND THAT FON MIN PEACOCK SHOULD LET US KNOW IF IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE US TO DO MORE TO SUPPORT THE GOA IN THIS REGARD.

7. ANZUS OFFICIAL TALKS - AMB RENOUF RAISED THE QUESTION OF ANZUS OFFICIAL'S TALKS NOTING THAT THE NEW ZEALANDERS WOULD LIKE TO CONVENE THEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MR. HOLBROOKE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE THREE COUNTRIES IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS THERE ARE FEW ISSUES THAT COULD USEFULLY BE DISCUSSED AT SUCH A MEETING. A JOINT MEETING OF FON MINS PEACOCK AND TALBOYS WITH SECRETARY VANCE AT THE UNGA SESSION THIS FALL WAS SUGGESTED AS A PARTIAL ALTERNATIVE. BOTH RENOUF AND HOLBROOKE AGREED TO LOOK INTO THIS POSSIBILITY. CHRISTOPHER

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